

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-32, 34-36, and 38-49 are presently active and allowed in this case.

The Supplemental Notice of Allowability mailed on May 30, 2006, indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 31, 2006, was not considered since it did not include a statement as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e). The Applicants note that the certification box on the cover sheet of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 31, 2006, was inadvertently not checked. Accordingly, a certification statement specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) is being made below and is proper, since the communication from the foreign patent office was mailed on February 22, 2006, and the Information Disclosure Statement was filed on March 31, 2006. The Applicants note that the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(p) was paid on March 31, 2006, as required under 37 CFR 1.97(d)(2).

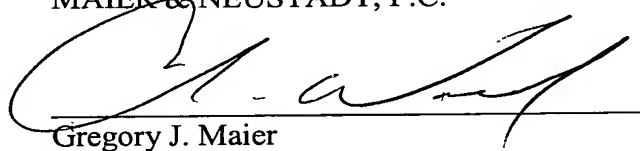
Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 31, 2006, was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 31, 2006.

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Certification of Information Disclosure Statement Filed on March 31, 2006

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 31, 2006, and acknowledgement of said consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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